

15-90 CORRIDOR INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION PROJECT

Meeting: Friday, October 15, 2004

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Place: Butte – Silver Bow Courthouse, First Floor Conference Room

1:00 PM Call to Order: Sheriff John Walsh

Introductions

Approval of Minutes (September 17, 2004)

1:15 PM Current Status Report: Jim Minor and Wilma Puich

SIEC Meeting, Tuesday, October 5, 2004: Jim
Interoperable Training, October 6, 2004: Wilma
Equipment Survey
Letter of Intent
Memorandum of Understanding

2:00 PM Federal Engineering: Neil Horden

Proposal
Statement of Work

3:00 PM Approve Budget for Project: Jim and Wilma

FY03 and FY04 Funding
Project Director Expenses
Office Expenses
Federal Engineering Costs

4:00 PM Discussion

Date for Next Meeting

4:30 PM Adjourn

The second meeting of the 15-90 Corridor Interoperability Communication Project committee met Friday, September 17, 2004 in the Butte Silver Bow County Courthouse conference room. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Sheriff John Walsh.

ATTENDANCE

Local

Sheriff John Walsh, Butte Silver Bow
Jeff Miller, Director of Fire Services Butte Silver Bow
Wilma Puich, DES Coordinator Butte Silver Bow
Dave, McPherson, 9-1-1 Coordinator Butte Silver Bow
Jennifer Kerns, Public Information Officer Butte Silver Bow
Bob McWilliams, Beaverhead County Fire
Buzz Peterson, DES Coordinator Anaconda - Deer Lodge
Bill Converse, Anaconda Deer Lodge Fire Chief
Jim Minor, Granite County DES Coordinator

Excused (Present at First Meeting)

Steve Immenschuh, Granite County Sheriff
Larry Laknar, DES Coordinator Beaverhead County
John Sullivan, Anaconda Deer Lodge Acting Chief of Police

Guests

Sheri Lanz, Montana DES Homeland Security Coordinator
Jenny Hansen, Public Safety Services Bureau Chief
Ron Warren, Public Safety Services Bureau Special Projects Coordinator
George Grosbeck, Butte, SIEC Member

Sheriff Walsh appointed Wilma Puich to be the meeting recorder.

DECISION TO PROCEED WITH FOUR COUNTY EFFORT

Wilma Puich gave a project overview discussing the projects first meeting held on August 17, 2004. All four counties indicated at this meeting that they wanted to proceed with the project.

OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Because the committee had many questions and concerns about Interoperability Projects around the State, Sheriff Walsh asked Ms. Hansen and Ms. Lanz to give a summary of their activities.

- *Interoperability is the ability of multiple radio users to communicate together effectively within and between organizations in the most efficient way possible. To accomplish this, the APCO P-25 Project became the standard.*
- *Senator Burns obtained a 3 million dollar grant to start the Montana project with the Helena Valley selected to enhance their Public Safety mill levy.*
- *Gov. Martz signed Executive Order #14-02 in June 2003 establishing the State Interoperability Executive Committee to establish a joint approach to wireless interoperability among public safety entities in the State and to exercise authority for strategic decision making.*

Question: Sheriff Walsh asked if there was a state communication “plan” in place to guide this project?

Response: *Talks for such a project began in 1994 and statewide studies were completed in 1996 and 1998. The reasoning behind the quick selection of the Helena Valley was because they had started a communication plan for their Public Safety mill levy and the time frame on the grant required fiscal year implementation. Only a 30 day turn around to make use of the funding.*

Question: Sheriff Walsh asked Ms. Hansen to explain the Northern Tier Project which consists of twelve counties and four tribes adjacent to the Canadian Border.

Response: *This project started when Senator Bacus visited Havre and in discussions with law enforcement personnel found out that in the event of any emergency or disaster the ability to communicate in the county and state-wide was seriously lacking. He then asked General Prendergast, Adjutant General of MT. National Guard, what he could do if he had a million dollars to start a communication project?*

With that the Northern Tier Project was formed led by law enforcement, Border Patrol and U.S. Customs. A Concept Demonstration Project (CDP) was developed by the consortium to test the application of technology and build-out the system in a phased approach. Federal Engineering from Virginia was hired to build a “road map” for the project.

Initial funding for the project is coming from Homeland Security and Department of Justice grants. Phase one focus is law enforcement. Phase two involves inclusion of fire, EMS, State, Federal and other critical stakeholder.

Funding for the project comes from \$5.7M from ODP FY04 State Homeland Security Grant Project and \$1.4M grant from LETP Homeland Security.

Law Enforcement has a vested interest because of the funding and agencies taking the lead on the project.

The Southwest Interoperability Project, in phase one, consists of Lewis & Clark County and is expected on line soon. It will provide a case evaluation for future systems. Lewis & Clark will own and control the asset which has 9 sites. Phase two will add Broadwater and eventually Jefferson and Powell Counties.

Ms. Hansen explained how the Lewis & Clark project could eventually enhance the 15-90 Corridor Project through the use of a master controller, stationed in Helena, trunking system. Lewis & Clark has a 1.7 million master controller currently in place and has available about 20 sites. The Northern Tier Project has a million for 20 sites. For about 1.2 million more, the state could have a Lewis & Clark master controller with the capability of supporting 100 sites making the entire state interoperable and fully redundant. A November 1st report is due to the SIEC on this project.

Sheri Lanz stated that DES is the Administering Agent for the \$5.7 million Northern Tier Project. This project will be allowed to spend this funding only by utilizing the P-25 Standards. Spending is granted through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all entities with DES. Department of Administration is the Project Agent and will be developing a separate MOU. A Statement of Work Coordinator will be hired.

Question: Ms. Lanz was asked by Wilma Puich why FEMA does not have the same P-25 standards for communication equipment purchased with FEMA Fire Grants?

Response: *FEMA fire grants go directly from FEMA to the grant recipient with no State involvement. This may change. The Montana Highway Patrol mobile data is not P-25 but 700mg. Following a briefing of the project the Governor is signing an Executive Order endorsing the P-25 standard for all state agencies. By 2008 all vendors are required to be P-25 compliant.*

Question: Sheriff Walsh discussed the Department of Justice Board of Crime Control Grant and asked why the invitation to participate was sent to every county when in fact not one county in the state could meet the qualifications to apply by having an SIEC approved plan. Many

counties went to a great deal of time and effort putting the application together when in fact they were not eligible to apply.

Response: *Ms. Hanson stated that this was largely due to a total communication failure by everyone. This funding was going to the Northern Tier Project because they had the CDP in*

place and the consortium was almost in place. Once again there was a time line on the funding expenditure. Lessons are being learned about this entire process by everyone.

Ms. Hansen and Ms Lanz encouraged those present to proceed with their project and that both state agencies would lend their total support to the project including grant funding research. Available funding will be prioritized to those consortiums already in place. The next meeting of the SIEC will be Tuesday, October 5, 2004 and if the groups CDP is submitted and approved by the SIEC Technical Committee by that date it could be placed on the October 5, 2004 agenda.

It was noted that all necessary documents are on the Public Safety Bureau web page.

FY04 WAR SUPPLEMENTAL SET ASIDE FOR 15-90 PROJECT

Sheriff Walsh asked about the time frame and was advised that each county should set aside FY04 War Supplemental funding for the project. Department of Administration will hire a Project Manager for the 15-90 Corridor Project. Infrastructure should be given a high priority.

DECISION TO PURSUE 15-90 CORRIDOR ICC PROJECT & WRITE CDP

All present agreed on pursuing the 15-90 Corridor Project. Jim Minor will begin work immediately on the CDP to insure it is on the agenda of the SIEC October meeting. Ron Warren distributed copies of the SIEC Implementation Strategies. He also stated that he would be the one who will assist us with the development and critique of the CDP. Along with the 15-90 Corridor Project, other future CDP's include Madison, Gallatin, Park and Sweet Grass and will probably be called the South Central Project. Missoula is also well on its way to having an approved CDP.

EVALUATING THE ALTERNATIVES

Sheriff Walsh asked Jim Minor to explain the evaluation process tool which was included in the hand out package. The four alternatives were:

1. Develop an RFP to hire someone to complete the Needs Assessment and write the Implementation Strategy.
2. Hire Federal Engineering who was already working in Montana on the Northern Tier Project.
3. Hire Northrop Grumman who had just completed doing the Lewis & Clark Project.
4. Each County write their own plan to satisfy the Office of Domestic Preparedness requirements.

Following an in-depth discussion of the evaluation document, Buzz Peterson made a motion to enter into a contract with Federal Engineering from Virginia. Motion seconded by Wilma Puich. Motion Carried. Wilma and Jim were instructed to pursue this action.

FORMING THE CONSORTIUM

The next step in the process would be for each County to get a Letter of Intent signed by their respective Chief Executive Officers and or Chairman of the County Commission. This letter should be supported by letters of support from all those working with the LEPC's and others such as USFS, BLM, DNRC and others. Samples of the support letters were included in the handout packet along with the Letter of Intent document. Everyone was asked to have this done before the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS INVENTORY

Jim then discussed the Communication Inventory which would have to be completed as soon as possible. A sample of this was also in the handout packet. It is a very basic inventory. Once completed send it to Jim who will summarize it for Federal Engineering.

STATEMENT OF WORK

Wilma and Jim will work with Federal Engineering on their proposal and Statement of Work. They will also develop a budget which will allow each county ample time to plan for the expenditure of their FY04 funding.

ADJOURNMENT

The date for the next meeting was set for Friday, October 15, 2004 with a time to be set later. There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Wilma Puich - Recorder